THE SPEECH OF THE SPEAKER OF THE House of Commons,

On THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1745.

UPON

Preſenting to His MAJESTY

The ſeveral MONEY BILLS,

Which then paſſed the ROYAL ASSENT.

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Houſe of Commons,

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THE SPEECH OF THE SPEAKER OF THE House of Commons,

On THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1745.

Moſt Gracious Sovereign,

YOUR Faithful Commons do now attend Your Majeſty with their laſt Bill of Supply for the publick Service of the preſent Year.

As their Supplies, SIR, are equal to Your Majeſty's Demand, ſo Your Commons have made theſe Grants to Your Majeſty, as they judged them to be adequate alſo to the Nature, the Importance, and the Neceſſity of the Services.

What Your Commons have given, the Manner of their Gift, and the Latitude allowed in the Diſpoſition of great Part of it, are ſo many Marks of the Senſe they have of the Cauſe it is for, of the Confidence they repoſe in Your Majeſty for the due Application of it, and of the Deſire they had alſo, that our Enemies might conceive no Hopes, from our unexpected Diſadvantages and moſt unaccountable Diſappointments, the laſt Year, that this Nation was either unwilling, or yet unable, to maintain its own Rights and Rank, or thoſe of its Allies, againſt the Diſturbers of *Europe*, their Ambition, and Perfidy.

This is, and always has been, the only Object of Your Commons in this War; and although it has been purſued by this Country againſt one of our Enemies, at an Expence beyond our Proportion of the Danger, compared with that of other States; in Places, and in a Manner not the moſt natural to the Situation of this Country, or where its principal, and genuine, and leſs expenſive Strength can be exerted; yet Your Faithful Commons, SIR, have enabled Your Majeſty to take this large Share in the War upon the Continent,—to be indeed the Life and chief Spirit of the Whole; That the Inability of ſome Powers, and the Slowneſs of others, might not make the common Cauſe to become deſperate, and thereby give the common Enemy the Advantage of effecting, without Controul, that Superiority, which muſt be Tyranny, ſo long meditated, and now again attempted, and in which, if obtained, the Independency of *Great Britain* may ſooner or later be involved and deſtroyed.

It is This, SIR, and This alone, that can juſtify to the People, the impoſing upon them the many Millions they have already paid in the Courſe of this particular Quarrel.—GOD grant that our Condition, in the farther Progreſs of it, may not call for a Repetition of the ſame Expence. HIS Aid we implore, and we rely on Your Majeſty's Wiſdom and Conduct, and on the expected great Conſequences of ſome late very important Advantages, that the great Armaments Your Commons have again provided for, and the large Subſidies they have enabled Your Majeſty to give to Foreign Powers, may have that Succeſs this Year, how much ſoever it failed in the laſt, as to bring our proud Enemies to Reaſon, and give Your Majeſty the Glory of bringing to Your Country, what we are ſatisfied is moſt deſired by Your Royal Heart, as it is certainly moſt wanted by your Subjects, a ſpeedy, an honourable, and a laſting Pacification.

To the obtaining of which moſt deſireable End, has the Attention of Your Commons been moſt earneſtly applied,—recommended to them by Your Majeſty, in the ſtrongeſt and moſt affectionate Manner, and proſecuted by them, with moſt diſtinguiſhed Zeal and Unanimity.

'Twas their firſt and principal Care: And, when that was done, they applied themſelves with the ſame ſerious Attention

to

to many other very national Concerns—more than has uſually been the Production of one Seſſion. Among others, there are Bills prepared for Your Majeſty's Royal Aſſent—To regulate Elections of Knights of Shires—To ſecure the Qualification of Juſtices of the Peace—To give further Encouragement to the Linen Manufactures of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*—To purſue the ſuppreſſing of exceſſive and deceitful Gaming, that Corrupter of Mind and Morals in the higheſt as well as the loweſt of a People.

There are other Bills, SIR, to prevent two very growing and reproachful Evils to the Publick—The Running in of Goods and Merchandize to avoid Payment of the legal and accuſtomed Duties; and the extravagant Uſe and Conſumption of *French* Cambricks. Both of them enriching our dangerous Rival in Trade and Power. The firſt of them grown to an Enormity beyond the Controul of all Law, and carried to the moſt daring and impudent Defiance of all Government. The other to an Expence and clear Loſs to the Nation of Two Hundred Thouſand Pounds a Year; of no Neceſſity, of no particular Conveniency, but the Reſult of Humour, and Faſhion only; and, to our double Shame be it ſpoken, almoſt the only Faſhion we do not take from that People of whom we purchaſe this Commodity.

Some Part of the Seſſion, SIR, has been employed by Your Commons, not unuſefully, we hope, to the Publick, in the moſt intereſting Diſquiſition of all others to this Nation.

The Honour of the *Britiſh* Flag is moſt juſtly deem'd the chief Honour of the *Britiſh* Empire. It has made us the Envy and the Terror of all other Nations. Our Annals, and thoſe of our Enemies too, bear Teſtimony of its Glory in all Ages. Some other Countries equal, perhaps exceed, us in other Species of military Strength—not in Bravery, though in Numbers; but the Naval Power of this Iſland was never exceeded or equal'd by any, and is now far ſuperior to the Maritime Force of any other Country whatſoever. In the *Mediterranean* Seas, laſt Year, we were confeſſedly ſuperior to the united Fleets of *France* and *Spain*, conſiſting of the Flower and chief Strength of both their Navies; but, to the Aſtoniſhment of the World, the Enemy eſcaped almoſt with Triumph, when Pro-

vidence had thrown them almoſt into our Hands; and the nobleſt Occaſion was thereby loſt of eſtabliſhing the Greatneſs of the *Britiſh* Navy againſt all Pretence of Rivalry, and of deciding, perhaps, in our Favour at once, the Fate of the whole War.

—Under theſe Circumſtances, SIR, unbecoming and unpardonable would it have been in Your Commons, not to have made this foul Miſcarriage the Subject of their antient, conſtitutional, and neceſſary Power of Enquiry into every publick Service. They enter'd into it, and purſued it with an Impartiality, and with a Solemnity, that became their Juſtice and their Dignity; worthy of the great national Importance it is of, and worthy the Royal Juſtice to which they have now appealed—To You, SIR, Your People in Parliament have deferr'd this great Cauſe of their Country, to give it an Examination in legal Courſe of Trial, without Diſtinction of Perſons or Degrees; that this Stain upon the Honour of the Kingdom, this Diſgrace that raiſes Indignation in the Breaſt of every true *Briton*, may in ſome meaſure be done away, by doing Right to the Valour and Conduct of Thoſe who have done well, and by perpetuating, through exemplary Puniſhment, the Infamy of the Timorous, and the Treacherous, and of Thoſe who in any Manner, thus fatally to their Country, have tranſgreſs'd the Rules, and broken the Diſcipline of War.

Connected in ſome ſort with this Enquiry, the late Practice of Courts Martial in the Sea Service hath fallen under the Obſervation of Your Commons: In one of which They have found ſuch Defects and Miſbehaviour, as are a Reproach to the Juſtice of the Nation; and, if generally practiſed, muſt end in the total Overthrow of all military Diſcipline at Sea. Towards remedying which ſo great Evil, and indeed Scandal to the State, a Bill awaits Your Majeſty's Royal Aſſent, to prevent it in ſome degree; with our Hopes, that hereafter a more extenſive Reformation of theſe Courts will be made by Parliament. — That the Privilege of being tried by Perſons of the ſame Profeſſion, as a means of protecting the Innocent, may not be converted into the baſe means of protecting the Guilty, becauſe they are of the ſame Profeſſion; — or for other Reaſons not leſs dangerous or diſhonourable.

The

The Bills I have in my Hands to preſent to Your Majeſty, are ſeverally entitled,

An Act for granting to His Majeſty the Sum of Eight Hundred Thouſand Pounds, out of the Sinking Fund; and for granting a Sum remaining in the Exchequer (ariſen by the Surplus of the Duties upon Malt, Mum, Cyder and Perry) for the Service of the Year One Thouſand Seven Hundred and Forty Five; and for the further appropriating the Supplies granted in this Seſſion of Parliament; and for giving further time for the Payment of Duties, omitted to be paid for the Indentures or Contracts of Clerks and Apprentices; and for the further enforcing the Payment of the ſaid Duties.

An Act for repealing the preſent Inland Duty of Four Shillings per Pound Weight upon all Tea ſold in Great Britain; *and for granting to His Majeſty certain other Inland Duties in lieu thereof; and for better ſecuring the Duty upon Tea, and other Duties of Exciſe; and for purſuing Offenders out of one County into another.*

To which Your Commons, with all Humbleneſs, beſeech Your Majeſty's Royal Aſſent.

By Virtue of an Order of the Houſe of Commons, I do appoint Thomas Cox, Charles Bathurſt, *and* Henry Pemberton, *to print this Speech; and that no other Perſon do preſume to print the ſame.*

Ar: Onslow, Speaker.

SEP